

Comparison (1) – cheaper, more expensive, etc.

a Study these examples:

Let's go by car. It's **cheaper**.
Don't go by train. It's **more expensive**.

Cheaper and **more expensive** are *comparative* forms.

After comparatives we use **than**:

- It's cheaper to go by car **than** to go by train.

For **than** see also Unit 99.

b We use **-er** for the comparative of short adjectives and adverbs:
cheap/cheaper hard/harder large/larger thin/thinner

- This jacket is too small. I need a **larger** size.
- Ann works **harder** than most of her friends.

We prefer **-er** with some two-syllable adjectives, especially adjectives ending in **-y**. For example:

lucky/luckier funny/funnier easy/easier pretty/prettier
and also: **quiet/quieter** **narrow/narrower** **simple/simpler**

- The examination was **easier** than we expected.
- It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere **quieter**?

For spelling rules see Appendix 3.

c We use **more ... (not -er)** for other two-syllable adjectives and longer adjectives:
more modern **more serious** **more expensive** **more comfortable**

- **More expensive** hotels are usually **more comfortable** than cheaper ones.
- Her illness was **more serious** than we first thought.

We also use **more ...** for adverbs that end in **-ly**:

more slowly **more seriously** **more quietly** **more carefully**

- Could you speak **more slowly**, please?

We also say **more often**:

- I don't play tennis much now. I used to play **more often**.

But we say **earlier** (*not* more early):

- You're always tired in the mornings. You should go to bed **earlier**.

d Before the comparative of adjectives and adverbs you can use:

a (little) bit **a little** **much** **a lot** **far (= a lot)**

- Let's go by car. It's **much (or a lot) cheaper**.
- Don't go by train. It's **much (or a lot) more expensive**.
- Ann works **a lot (or much) harder** than most of her friends.
- Could you speak **a (little) bit (or a little) more slowly**?
- Her illness was **far more serious** than we first thought.

UNIT 97 Exercises

97.1 Complete these sentences. Each time use the comparative form of one of the following adjectives or adverbs:

crowded early easily expensive interested ~~large~~ near often
quiet thin

1. This jacket is too small. I need a *larger* size.
2. You look Have you lost weight?
3. He's not so enthusiastic about his studies. He's in having a good time.
4. You'll find your way around the town if you have a map.
5. You're making too much noise. Can you be a little bit ?
6. There were a lot of people in the cafe. It was than usual.
7. You're late. I expected you to be here
8. You hardly ever write to me. Why don't you write a little ?
9. The hotel was surprisingly cheap. I expected it to be much
10. It's a shame you live so far away. I wish you lived

97.2 Complete these sentences. Use the comparative of the words in parentheses (...) + **than**.

Example: Her illness was *more serious than* ... we first thought. (serious)

1. Sorry I'm late. It took me to get here I expected. (longer)
2. My toothache is it was yesterday. (painful)
3. She looks about 20, but in fact she's much she looks. (older) *than*
4. The problem is not so complicated. It's you think. (simple)
5. Your English has improved. You speak a lot you did when we last met. (fluently)
6. Health and happiness are money. (important)
7. We always go camping when we go on vacation. It's much staying in a hotel. (cheap)
8. I like the country. It's and living in the city. (healthy/peaceful)

97.3 This exercise is similar, but this time you also need to use **a bit / a little / much / a lot / far**. Use **than** where necessary.

Example: Her illness was *much more serious than* ... we first thought. (much / serious)

1. It's today it was yesterday. (a little / warm)
2. You're driving too fast. Can you drive ? (a bit / slowly)
3. A: Did you enjoy your visit to the museum?
B: Yes, I found it I expected. (far / interesting)
4. I prefer this armchair. It's the other one. (much / comfortable)
5. You looked depressed this morning, but you look now. (a little / happy)
6. This apartment is too small. I need something (much / big)
7. It's to learn a foreign language in the country where it is spoken. (a lot / easy)